

Dr Kamaruzaman talking to one of the participants who exhibited a solar panel technology.



# Inventions: UMS sees a gradual rise in entries

Jason Santos *DF 25.05.2012 9*

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has seen a gradual increase in participation in its Research and Invention Competition in line with the institution's aim to cultivate a culture of research and innovation.

Already in its fifth edition, the competition has seen an increase of 17 per cent with 337 entries, consisting of 215 research projects and 122 innovations from various categories compared to 297 in 2011, said UMS Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Prof. Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah.

"The increase is largely attributed to the effort of the university in supporting the culture of research and innovation among lecturers and students.

"The annual event will provide a platform for our researchers to exhibit their creations.

"The winners will also be given the opportunity to compete in the national and international level," Dr Harun said during the closing of the event.

UMS Vice Chancellor, Prof. Datuk Seri Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon, meanwhile, said the management of the university has always given priority towards setting up the best in research facilities for the university's researchers.

He also said the university has also set up funds for research and aid in post-graduate project research and would reimburse the funds as seed money to young researchers.

"The university will always continue to provide such funds and also work to protect their intellectual properties. We have also prepared funds to allow them to attend conferences, meetings, competitions in the international and national level," he said, adding that the university sees intellectual properties as an important asset for the institution.

Dr Kamaruzaman said intellectual properties could generate income if it was successfully commercialised.

He said through the university's collaboration with MyIPO in 2011, UMS has given protection to 44 intellectual properties via patent, industrial designs and copyrights, which he said some of the creations are currently being evaluated for commercialisation.

Meanwhile, during the UMS fifth edition of the Research and Innovation Competition, the university also increased the number of awards to 200 and since 2008 the competition has attracted 83 participants, 202 in 2009, 244 in 2010, 297 in 2011.

The competition is divided into two categories, which are Research Category and Innovation Category whereby the products and prototype designs are displayed.

Judges from various agencies and universities, such as Universiti Islam Antarabangsa, Universiti Malaya, University Putra Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Institute Teknologi Mara, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Perguruan Sultan Idris, Malaysian Cocoa Board, Forestry Department, Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd, State Computer Services Department, Malaysian Innovation Agency, MyIPO and the Rotary Club were invited to maintain the quality of the winners' creations.